

Be killing sin or it will be killing you!!!

# Brave Men

The Holiness of God and  
the Mortification of Sin, Part 2

September 22, 2023



# Teaching Outline

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- The Holiness of God
  - The Fall and the Problem of Sin
  - Redemption
  - Sanctification
  - **Mortification of Sin**
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Mortification: Putting  
the Ax to the Root of  
Sin



# Scripture Reading

Romans 8:13

The Mortification of Sin

Colossians 3: 1 - 17

Mortification: Putting  
the Ax to the Root of  
Sin

# What is Holiness?

Separate from sin

Purity

Devoted to seeking

his own

honor

God is Holy and

we are Not!



# Devotion

# Personal Holiness

## Why be holy?



**We are commanded to be holy!**

1 Peter 1:14-16

<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

# Personal Holiness

## 1 John 2: 15 -17



<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



# The Fall and The Problem of Sin

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Sin enters the world through Adam  
What are its consequences for us?



Abusers of Self, Adultery, Anger, Arrogance, Backbiters, Banqueting, Becoming a Stumbling Block to a Weaker Brother, Being Angry with One's Brother, Bitterness, Blasphemy, Boasting, Brawling, Brother Going to Law Against Brother, Burying our Talents, Calling One's Brother a Fool, Chambering, Clamor, Complaining, Contentious, Corrupt Communications, Covenant Breakers, Covetousness, Craftiness (Cunningness), Debate, Deceit, Defiling the Body, Denying Christ, Desiring the Praise of Men, Despiteful, Dishonesty, Disobedience to Parents, Divisions, Divorce, Double Tongued, Drunkenness, Eating the Bread or Drinking the Lord's Cup Unworthily, Effeminate, Emulations, Envy, Evil Concupiscence, Evil eye, Evil Thoughts, Extortion, Father's Provoking Children to Wrath, Fearful, Filthiness, Filthy Lucre, Foolishness, Foolish Talking, Giving False Witness, Fornication, Giving Offense, Greediness, Guile, Haters of God, Hatred, Having Evil Treasures in the Heart, Having Pleasure In Them That Do Things Worthy of Death, Haring the Sayings of Christ, but Not Following Them, Heresies, Highmindedness,, Hypocrisy, Idle Words or Words of no Value, Idolatry; Loving Someone or something more than God, Implacable: Refusing to be appeased, Inordinate Affection,: Passion, Lust, Jesting, Talking to make others laugh, Judging, Knowing to do Good, but not doing it, Lasciviousness: Lustful, wanton, exciting lust, Laying Up Treasures on Earth: Pursuing material success at the expense of spiritual things, Lovers of Self, Loving Another Person More Than Jesus, Lusting After A woman, Lying, Maliciousness, Malignity: Being harmful or dangerous, bad character, Mockery, Murder, Murmuring: Grumbling, Secretly complaining, Presumptuous, Pride, Puffed Up, Purloining, Railing: Slander, Reveling: Overindulgence at feasts, merrymaking, Rioting, Seditions: stirring up opposition against authority, Self Will, Speaking against the Holy Spirit, Sorcery, Speaking Evil of Dignities, Stealing, Stiff-Necked, Strife, Striker, Swearing, Teaching for Doctrine the Commandments of Men, Traitors, Trusting in Riches, Not Entering the Door into the Sheepfold, Unbelief, Uncleaness, Unforgiving heart, Unmerciful, Unthankfulness, Vain Jangling, Variance, Voluntary or False Humility, Wantonness, Whisperers, Whoremongers, Witchcraft, Wickedness, Without Normal Affection, Without Understanding: Unwise, Wrath, Woman Cutting Her Hair, Woman Prophesying or Praying with her Head Uncovered

Anger

Sexual Immorality

Greed

Sloth

Pride



# Redemption & Sanctification

John 17: 9-10,  
17-19

Remember the tension between our positional/ progressive sanctification!



<sup>9</sup>I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in truth, your word is truth!  
<sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throng,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

## Application – Pursue Personal Holiness Every Hour of Every Day

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We are already sanctified (by God)

We are being sanctified (by God)

We will be perfectly sanctified (by God)

Expel the world, and replace it with a growing affection for and devotion to our Our Precious Lord and Loving Savior, Jesus Christ, the key

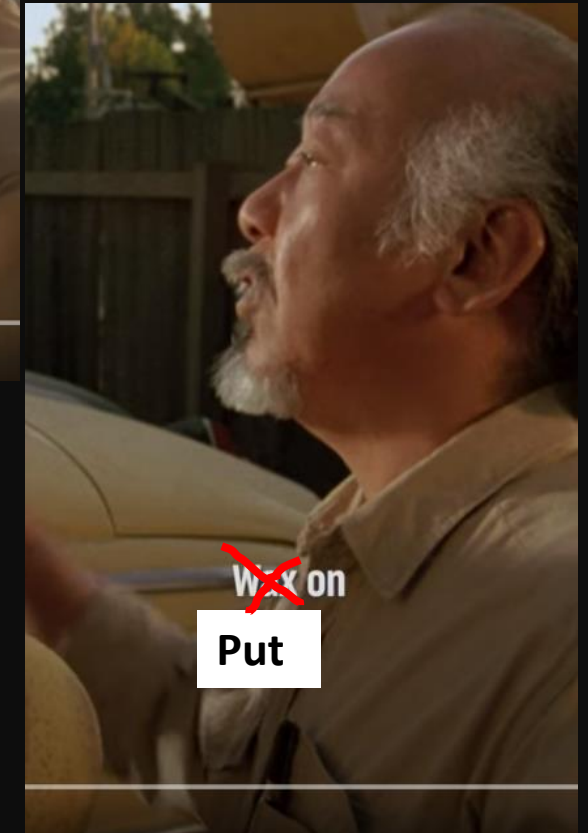
For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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Eph. 4:22  
**Put** off your old self...



Eph. 4:22  
**Put** on your new self...

# Personal Holiness

# Sanctification



## Sanctification – Already/Not Yet

Hebrews 10:10

<sup>10</sup> And by that (God the Father's) will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Positionally)

Philippians 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Progressively)

# Ligonier Conference, The Holiness of God, 2019

## Set Apart

## Sinclair Ferguson



### John 17 and 1 John 2:15-17

New Identify – I am the disciple that Jesus loved, given to us in Christ. I am the donation (gift) of the Father to the Son.

New Holiness – To which we are called, we are in the world, but not of the world.

These two always go together.  
We must have a holy love of God.  
Holiness is chiefly expressed in love, in Christ-likeness. Our home is in Heaven.

“Sin is Cosmic Treason,” Therefore,  
What are we to do with..?

## **Indwelling Sin**

“Consider it in relation to the law  
of God.”

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“Allow the guilt displayed in the  
holy law to speak to your  
conscience.”

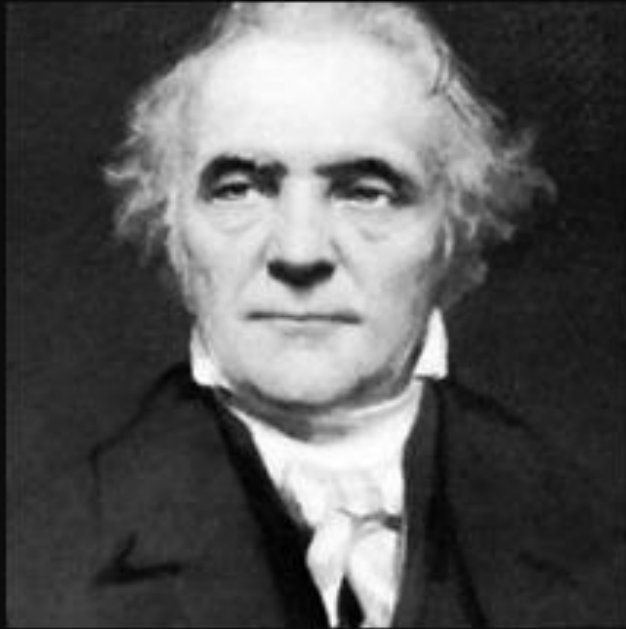
“Lay your sin next to the law and  
let its pressure weigh heavily on  
your conscience. Consider the  
law in its holiness...”

“Allow the terror of the Lord as  
displayed in the law to affect you  
greatly.”



Thomas Chalmers

“The Expulsive Power of a New Affection.”



The best way to overcome the world is not with morality or self-discipline. Christians overcome the world by seeing the beauty and excellence of Christ. They overcome the world by seeing something more attractive than the world: Christ.

1 John 2:15:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

AZ QUOTES

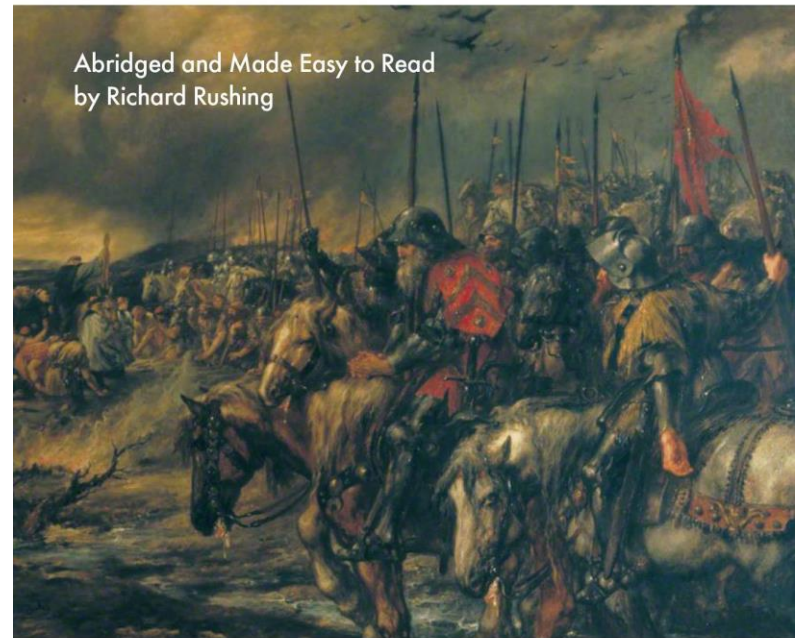




# The Mortification of Sin

John Owen

Abridged and Made Easy to Read  
by Richard Rushing



PURITAN  PAPERBACKS



## Charles Williams

Table Talk Dec 2020

According to Owen, “*mortify* means not the mere cessation of external sinful deeds but “the deeds of the flesh *in their causes* from whence they spring.”

The ax of mortification is to be chopping at the root of our sin.

As the firefighter puts out a fire by aiming not at the tips of the flame but rather the base of the fire.

This is radically different than simply restraining one’s sinful desires in an attempt to keep them from becoming actions.

Mortification: Putting  
the Ax to the Root of  
Sin



## Charles Williams Table Talk Dec 2020

Jesus says in Luke 13:3: No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Without genuine repentance, any profession or devotion to Christ and His gospel or the Christian life, regardless of how bright, will not result in the eternal salvation of one's soul.

The entire Christian life is marked by the war between our new Spirit driven power over sin and the indwelling presence of sin.

# Derek Thomas

## Putting Sin to Death

### Romans 8:1-13

John Owen – 1616 – 1683

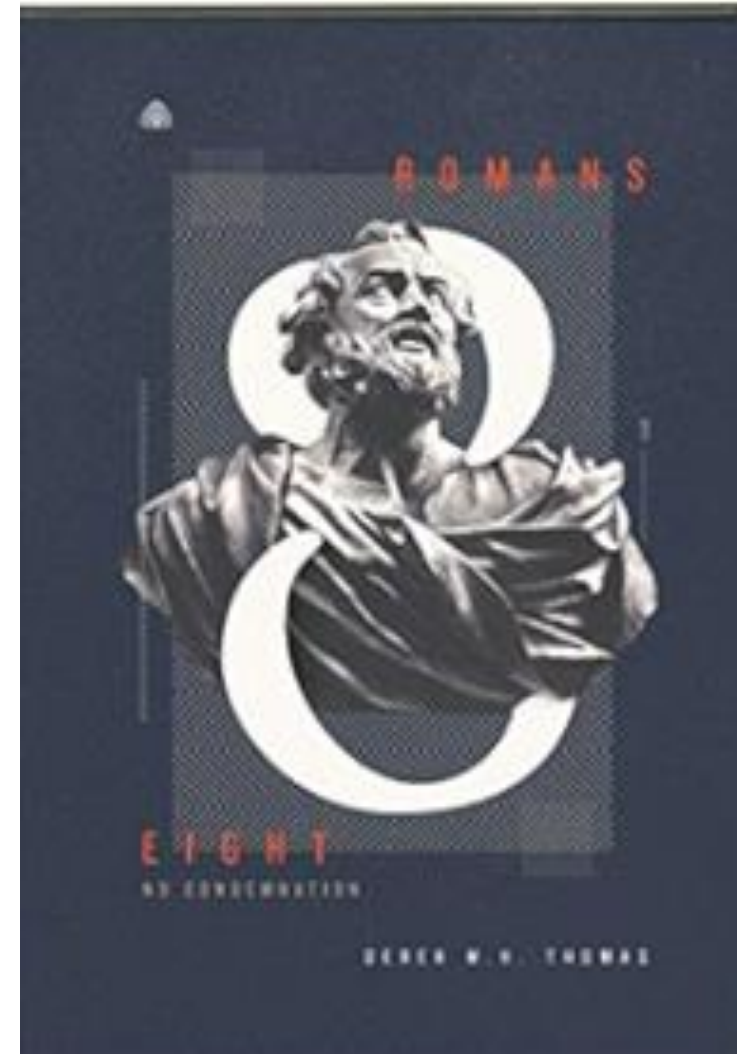
Led a hard life, ally to Thomas Cromwell

ESV – Put to death

KJB – Mortify the flesh

In this world we work out our  
sanctification in the flesh

We'll never be entirely free of sin in this  
life.



# Derek Thomas Putting Sin to Death Romans 8:13

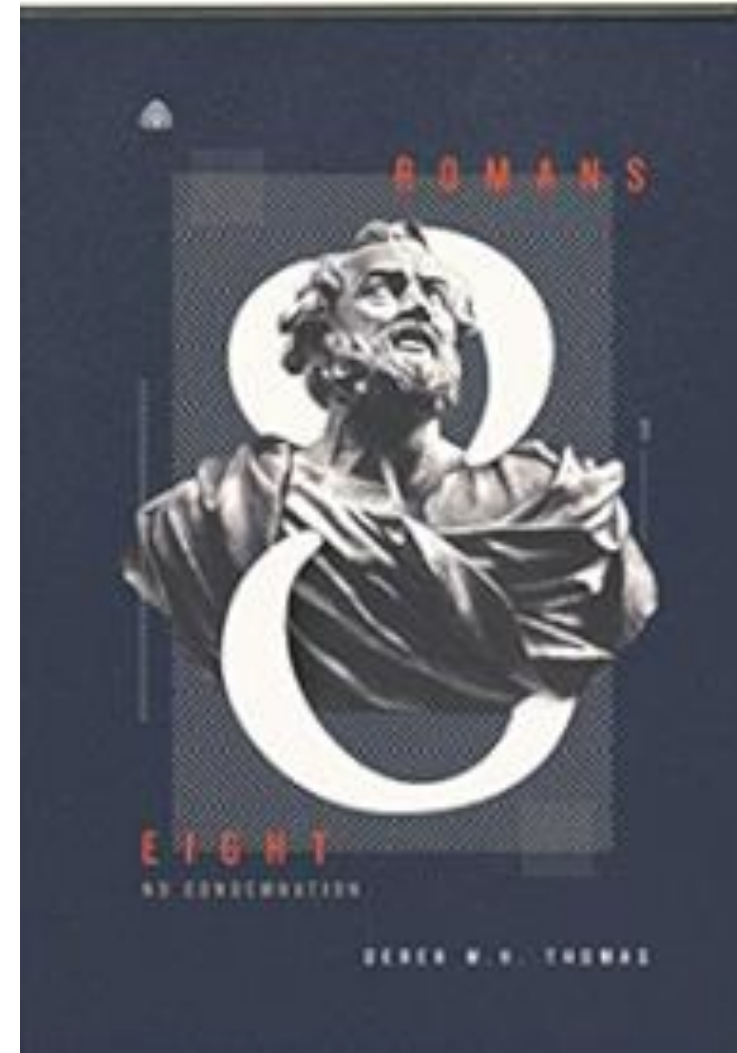
2 Principal Things – Mindset/Method

## Mindset of Mortification

We must deal with w/ indwelling sin

We must have a desire to deal with indwelling sin

We are able to deal with indwelling sin. Why?



# Derek Thomas

## Putting Sin to Death

### Romans 8:13

Method of Mortification

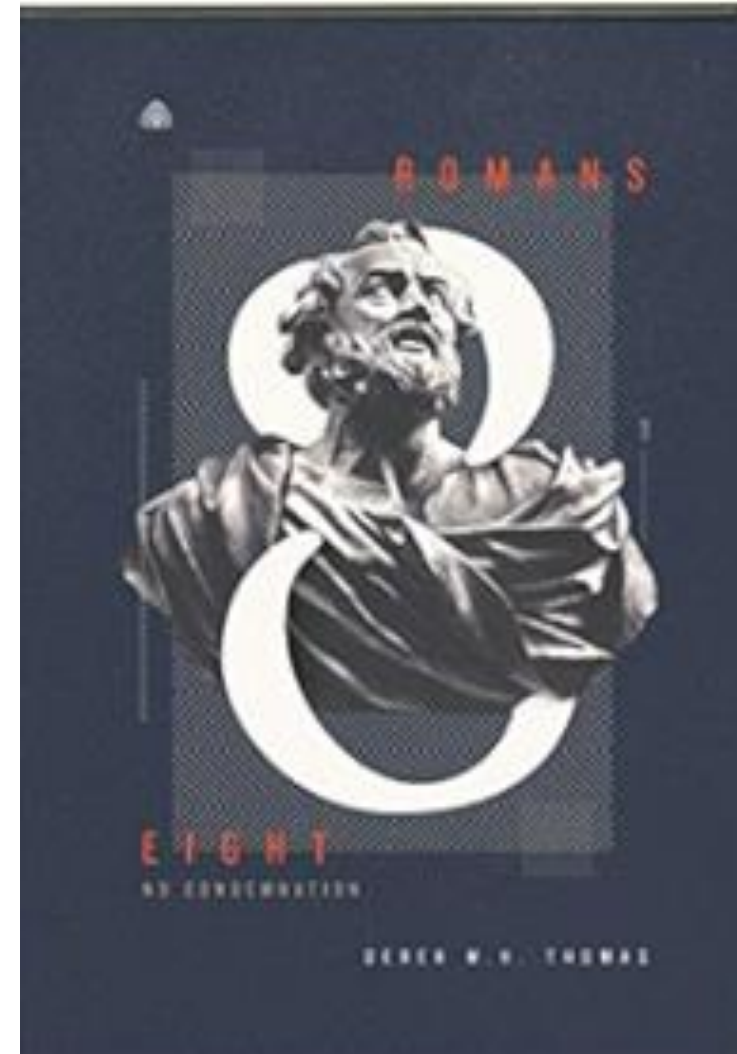
Say no to sin

Don't be content with partial holiness

Kill sin at its source

Be accountable

Don't fall into legalism



# Derek Thomas

## Putting Sin to Death

### Romans 8:13

Method of Mortification – Hard Questions

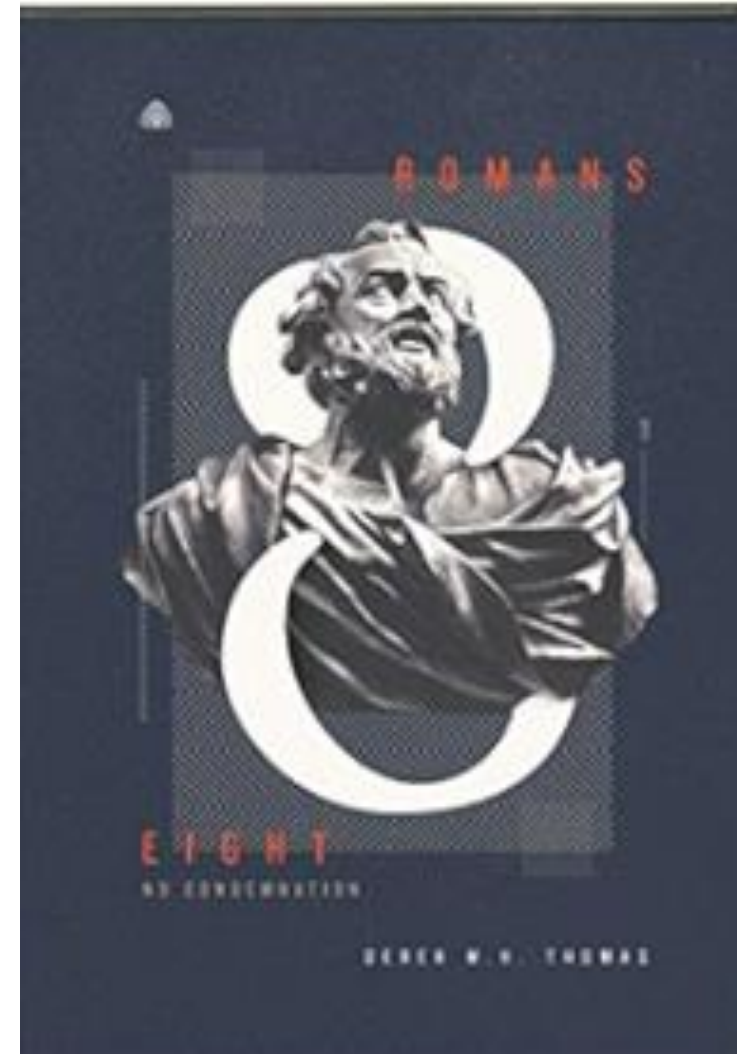
1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Jesus goes everywhere you go

Does any sin have any right to be in my life?

What is your besetting sin? Or sins?

What are you doing to put sin to death?



- “True Christian Living, holy and right living requires a new affection for the Father as its dynamic.”
- “If we lose our first love, we will find ourselves in serious spiritual peril.”
- “Sometimes we make the mistake of substituting other things for new affections. We become active in the service of God, ecclesiastically or evangelistically, measuring our spiritual growth in terms of position achieved.”
- “Or perhaps socially, in moral or political campaigning. Perhaps, we devote ourselves to learning and measure our vitality in how “correct” our theology is.”

***“Sinclair Ferguson, In Christ Alone, Chapter 49, Expelling Worldliness with a New Affection.***





- “Or we mistake substituting the rules of piety for affection for the Father. Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle. The root of the matter is not on my table or neighborhood but in my heart.”

- “Only love for Christ, with all that it implies, can squeeze out the love of this world.”

- “The way in which we maintain *the expulsive power of a new affection* is the same as the way we first discovered it. Only when grace is still amazing – when we return to Christ and the cross where God’s love for us was demonstrated to us does it retain its power in us.

- “Only as we retain a sense of our own profound sinfulness can we retain a sense of the graciousness of grace.”

- ***Sinclair Ferguson, In Christ Alone, Chapter 49, Expelling Worldliness with a New Affection.***






Holiness Means More Than Killing Sin. Sinclair Ferguson, *Desiring God*

Romans 13:14; “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

Consider, Ecclesiastes 12:11, “Like nails firmly fixed...given by On Shepherd.”



Holiness Means More Than Killing Sin. Sinclair Ferguson, Desiring God

Galatians 5:24

Colossians 3:1-12

Ephesians 4:21-24

***Put on, positive; put off, negative. There is no growth in holiness without both elements***



Holiness Means More Than Killing Sin. Sinclair Ferguson, *Desiring God*

Sin is never mortified by mortification alone.

If we only sweep or empty the house clean without filling it (putting on graces), the devils return in greater force. Matthew 12:43-45

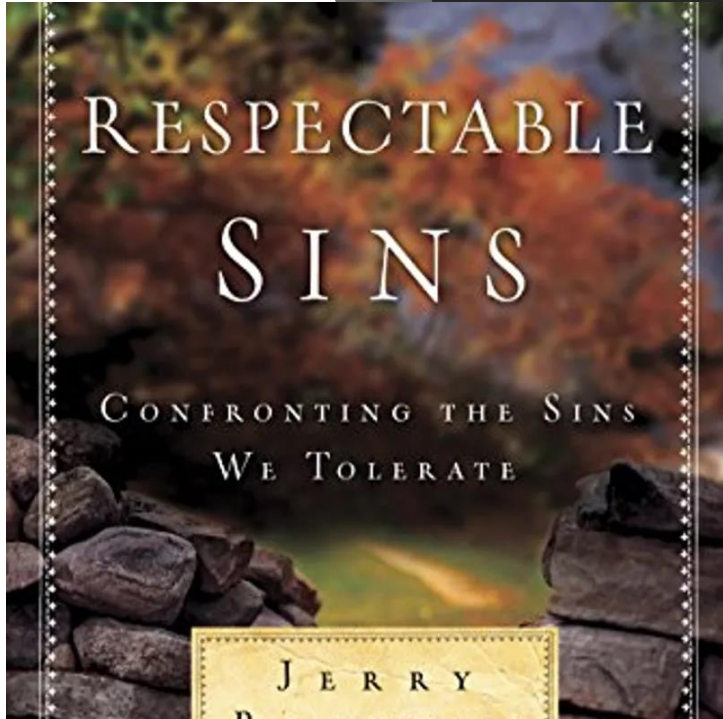
***Mortify and Vivify, put off sin, put on fruit of the Spirit***



Holiness Means More Than Killing Sin. Sinclair Ferguson, *Desiring God*

***“Sanctification is not merely the process of overcoming our sin; it is, ultimately, becoming like the Lord Jesus.”***

***Romans 8:29, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...”***

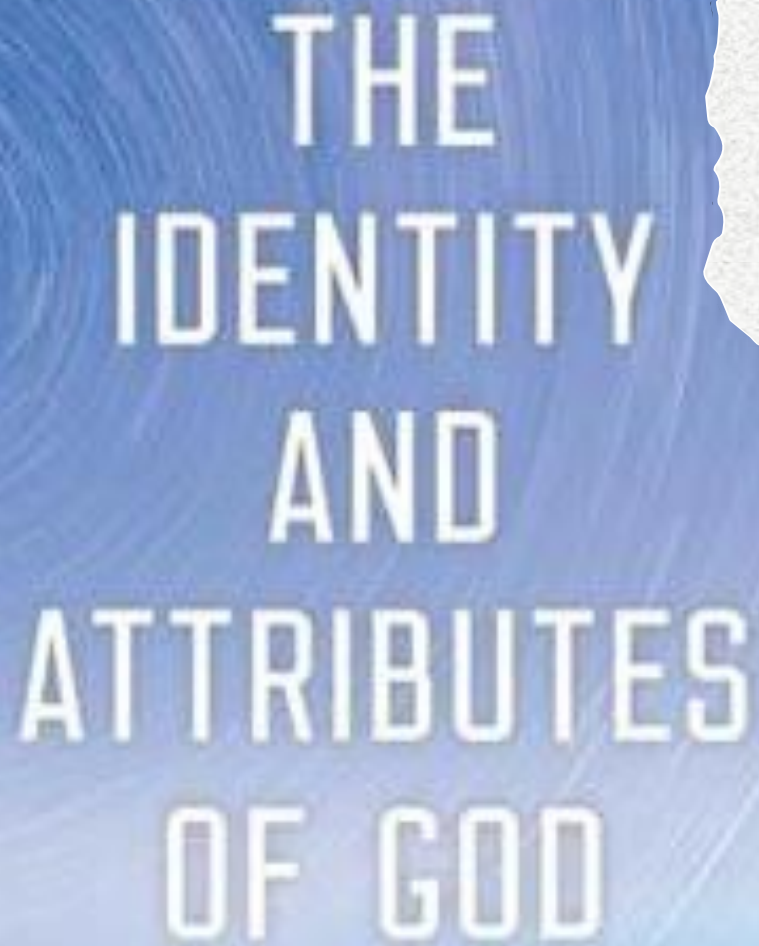


“Ungodliness may be defined as living one’s everyday life with little or no thought of God.”

“And so from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worth of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”  
Colossians 1:9-10

“Everything we do is done for the glory of God. That is the mark of a godly person.”

***Jerry Bridges, Respectable Sins, Ungodliness***



# THE IDENTITY AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

TERRY L. JOHNSON

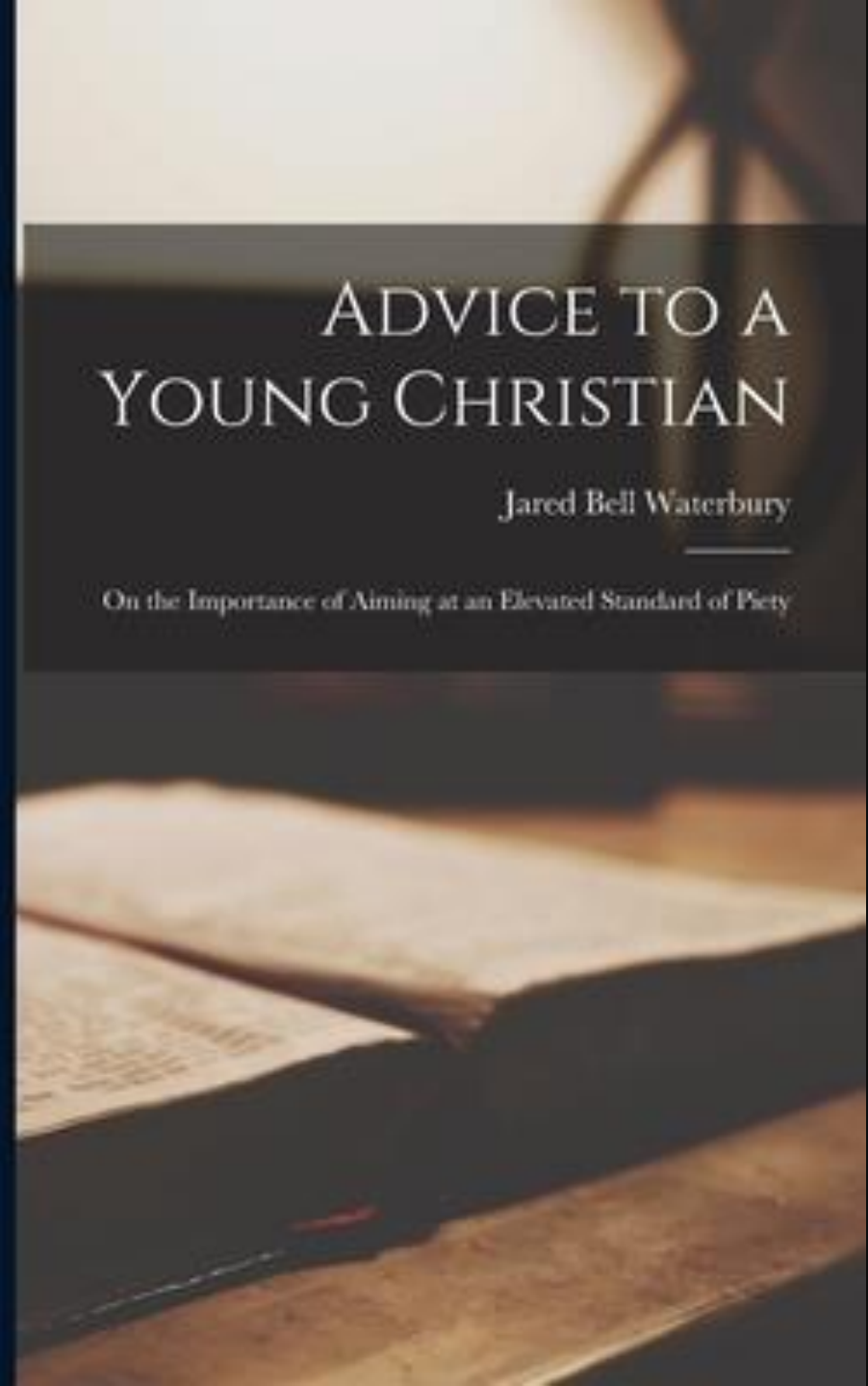
## **Cost of Atonement – God’s Holiness and Ours The Identity and Attributes of God – Terry L. Johnson**

- Do I have a high regard for the cost of atoning for sin?
- Do I have a serious concern about sin and the need for careful obedience?
- Do I grieve over sin or indulge it?
- Do I make grace a license to sin or a motivation for holiness?
- Are trials and temptations a stimulus to holiness or the occasion of bitterness?
- Do I cherish or ridicule holy people?
- Do we come to worship carefully prepared or without prior consideration?
- Do we love Christian discipleship, or do we think the demands of Christ are too difficult?

## The Scriptures are the Great Means of Our Sanctification

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- It convinces of sin.
  - It stimulates to duty.
  - It rouses from sluggishness.
  - It warns against danger.
  - It unfolds the character of God.
  - It reveals the way of salvation.
  - It delineates the providence of God.
  - It presents the Lamb of God slain for our transgressions.
  - It communicates sweet strains of spiritual devotion.
  - It brings into view a bright and eternal reward.
  - It discloses the wounds of our nature and offers the healing balm.
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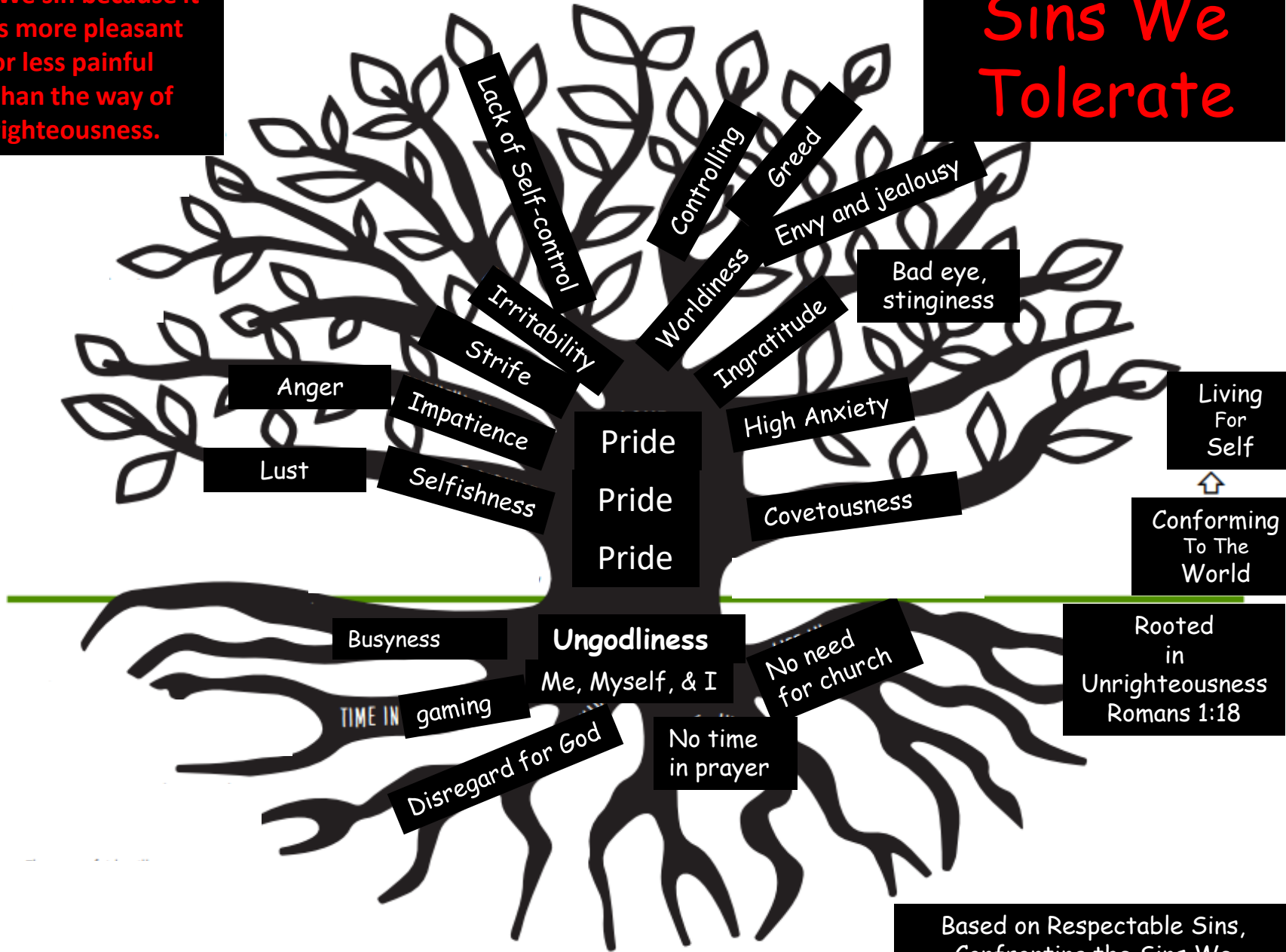


# Let Not Your Heart Be Discouraged

- Our positional sanctification is just as perfect as Christ is perfect. Just as much as He is set apart, we who are in Him are set apart. It is our vital union with Christ. Positional sanctification is as complete for the poorest and weakest believer as it is for the strong and mature. Our positional sanctification depends only on our union and standing in Christ. In this standing before the Father the believer is righteous and accepted before Him forever.
- *Will Carey, AbideinChrist.com*

We sin because it is more pleasant or less painful than the way of righteousness.

# Sins We Tolerate



Based on Respectable Sins, Confronting the Sins We Tolerate, Jerry Bridges

## ROOTED IN CHRIST

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.

They are like **trees** planted along the riverbank, bearing **fruit** each season.

Ps. 1:1-3 (NLT)

